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PM/PPA FOR JENNIFER HANLEY, WHA/PPC FOR COL MICHAEL BORDERS, SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KPKO MARR MASS PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY WELCOMES GPOI SUPPORT

REF: A. 06 STATE 203928

1B. 06 STATE 180984

Deputy Foreign Minister Federico Gonzalez welcomed the prospect of participating in the GPOI when the DCM approached him to describe the program in November per reftel B. Paraguay would like to expand its participation in UN peacekeeping operations but its ability to date has been constrained for lack of equipment and training. This program should assist Paraguay significantly in meeting UN peacekeeping requirements. Paraguay's new Commander of the Armed Forces General Bernardino Soto conveyed similar enthusiasm about participation in the program on January 8 when the Ambassador raised this matter with him. We sent the MFA a dipnote containing the 505 agreement text on January 10 per reftel A and will advise Department of GOP reply upon receipt. CASON